

# City Council

## Your City Government: What It Is Doing

By ELMORE M. MURPHY

Spring Fever hit the council with a vengeance at its Monday evening meeting. Reports of the various members of the council with but one exception were conspicuous by their absence. Council meetings have become so short of late that your reporter will not be surprised some evening to find himself coming out on the way in.

One subject of importance to every city employee eligible for the draft was brought up for discussion through a letter addressed to the council by John M. Sweeney of the Water Department who has been ordered to report for active duty. In his letter Mr. Sweeney stated that he had discharged the duties of his job in a faithful and efficient manner for the past five and one-half years and requested that the council take the necessary action to protect his employment during his absence. He pointed out that it was only just and right that he and others like him be given the opportunity of returning to their previous positions after they have spent the allotted time in the service of their country.

City Clerk Musser called the council's attention to the fact that a bill has recently been passed in the legislature in Springfield enabling municipalities to protect their employees in this manner. Commissioner Sharp stated that the council wished to do everything in its power to protect its employees who were called in the draft and suggested that Corporation Counsel McKenna draw up a resolution covering the case of Mr. Sweeney, and any other city employees so situated, and present it for council action at its next regular meeting.

Representatives of the section of the city just west of Skokie Road and north of County Line Road were on hand to petition the council to grant them permission to construct an inch and a quarter water line between their property and the city's water main. At the start of the discussion the council was adverse to grant immediate permission without further investigation because in the past the city has experienced nothing but trouble with temporary water lines. However, in this particular case it was pointed out that the line would be metered at the junction with the city's main and it would be entirely up to the property owners to pay the bill as registered, regardless of the leaks that might develop on the extension. The representatives who were in attendance assured the council that water bills on the extension would be paid without question, and with this assurance the council voted this group permission to lay their line as outlined.

Green Bay Road, which is fast becoming more difficult to navigate than the proverbial Rocky Road to Dublin is due for temporary repairs. The condition of this thoroughfare since the Green Bay Road improvement project was first discussed has caused the council in general and Commissioner Swanson in particular no end of embarrassment. Like the famous "Kelly's Korner" at the outer drive bridge in Chicago, Green Bay has been humorously dubbed "Swanson's Boulevard." Mr. Swanson has been compelled to take his fellow citizens' none too gentle ribbing without a comeback since it appeared the height of folly to repair a street that was scheduled to be torn up and re-paved. However, when the Green Bay Road improvement project was subsequently delayed a different light was thrown upon the whole matter. Latest advices indicate that it will be late summer or early fall before Green Bay is widened and re-paved. This being the case, unless something was done to fill the holes and level off the bumps it would take nothing less than one of Hitler's famous Panzer divisions to negotiate this road by July or August.

To alleviate the situation until the permanent road is built, Commissioner Swanson petitioned the council to appropriate \$1,000 from the gas tax fund (with the state's permission of course) to make the necessary repairs. Mayor Ronan and the council felt that this action was practically throwing the money down the sewer but rather than risk the life and limb of the motorist any further, granted Commissioner Swanson's petition.

In an interview after the meeting was adjourned, Mayor Ronan stated that the Co-ordinating Council's plans to look after the welfare of the service men at Fort Sheridan during their stay in this vicinity were rapidly taking shape. The committee in charge has already begun to furnish the servicemen's headquarters at 19 N. Sheridan Road. At the present writing two pianos, a pool table and several chairs have already been installed. Ping-pong tables and other games will be added as soon as the committee obtains them. The headquarters has been furnished with a director by the Y.M.C.A. to supervise its activities. Financial support for the enterprise has been promised by the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest and other agencies. According to present plans, the headquarters will be available for use the latter part of the week.

Because of the lack of official business on the city's calendar, there will be no open council meeting next week. However, there will be a closed meeting of the council on next Monday evening. Some day your reporter hopes to tell his readers what a so-called closed meeting is like. So far your reporter and the council have never been able to come to an agreement on this closed meeting business. The council says that it is impossible to throw all of its meetings open to the public. Your reporter holds that it would do no harm to throw ninety percent of them open to all who cared to come. There the matter stands and like Dumas' Count of Monte Cristo all we can do at the moment is "Wait and Hope."

# Calendar

## Highland Park Events for Coming Week

### THURSDAY, APRIL 17

All day Rummage Sale at Woman's Club.  
9:00 a.m. Nursery School of Y.W.C.A. Spring Term Opens.  
12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.  
12:30 p.m. Friendship Club, Y.W.C.A. Bus Trip.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Red Cross, Trinity Church.  
4:00 p.m. P.T.A. Program, "Jack and the Bean Stalk," H. P. H. School.  
8:00 p.m. Sheridan Rifle and Pistol Club, Deerfield Range.  
8:00 p.m. Choral Club Card Party, Y.W.C.A.  
8:00 p.m. Green Bay P.T.A. Card Party.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19

7:30 p.m. Ravinia Woman's Club, Dinner Dance, Village House.  
8:00 p.m. Saturday Evening Club, Y.W.C.A.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 p.m. Ravinia Woman's Club Twilight Tea.

### MONDAY, APRIL 21

12:15 p.m. Rotary Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.  
6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Dinner, Sunset Valley Club.  
8:00 p.m. City Council Meeting, City Hall.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 22

12:00 p.m. H. P. Woman's Club, Annual Spring Luncheon.  
2:00 p.m. Highland Park Woman's Club Meeting.  
H. P. Music Club, Mrs. H. O. McLain.  
8:00 p.m. Choral Club, Community Center.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

9:30 p.m. H. P. Hospital Auxiliary, H. P. Hospital.  
8:00 p.m. Royal Neighbors, Masonic Temple.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 24

12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.  
8:00 p.m. American Legion Meeting, Legion Hall.

## Institute Safety Drive

Balmy spring days, bring forth an ever increasing flow of traffic on the highways.—With added traffic comes accident increase.

Highland Park police are making a concerted effort to win the National Safety Contest. With the cooperation of the local motoring public, Highland Park should be able to secure this coveted honor.

All officers have been instructed to be on the alert for traffic violations, and a program for speed enforcement together with a continued effort to cut down stop sign running, has been instituted.

Every resident who drives an automobile is urged to cooperate with the local police in keeping their city free from traffic accidents.

## Dogs at Large

Highland Park police are again seeking the cooperation of dog owners of this city, in keeping their canines at home.

Many complaints have been registered with Chief Andrews during the past week regarding animals running at large, destroying property, and proving a general nuisance with their barking.

It is hoped that this matter may be solved in a cooperative manner, rather than through enforced regulation.

There's a background of 190,000,000 miles of flying behind W. A. Patterson, president of United Air Lines, who is to speak Monday night at Christ Church Parish House before a gathering of North Shore Boy Scouts and their families. Planes of United Air Lines and predecessor companies have run up that staggering total of mileage on their coast-to-coast and border-to-border routes.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Willison and daughter, Zana, 1074 Broadview ave., drove to Westville, Ind., Sunday to visit Mrs. Willison's sister, Mrs. Ralph Wright.

## Highland Park Leads Lake County Building

Highland Park, spending \$84,923, again leads the Lake County communities in building, for the month of March.

Lake Forest crept into second place, with a building total of \$38,480, followed by Lake Bluff with \$37,685. Waukegan, who was in second place last month, slipped into fourth place with \$35,310 and Libertyville brought up the rear with \$9,939.

Compared to the March of a year ago, there has been 2 million dollars more spent for building in the Chicago area.